

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 30, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 30, 2004. Claims 1-6 and 8-22 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected, and claims 1-5, 8-14 and 16-22 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Vance, Sr.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,959).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. *Vance, Sr.* discloses an inflatable packer supported on a mandrel for gripping the inside of the casing. However, *Vance, Sr.* does not teach an expander device to expand a length of the mandrel. Therefore, *Vance, Sr.* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus for anchoring a first conduit to a second conduit that includes an inflatable device for engaging with the first conduit, wherein the inflatable device is inflatable to facilitate anchoring of the first conduit to the second conduit, and wherein the inflatable device comprises an inflatable balloon portion coupled to a ring, and an expander device to expand a length of the first conduit, as recited in claim 6. Further, *Vance, Sr.* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus for anchoring a first conduit to a second conduit that includes an inflatable device for engaging with the first conduit, wherein the inflatable device is inflatable to facilitate anchoring of the first conduit to the second conduit, and wherein, on inflation of the inflatable device, a portion thereof directly contacts the second conduit to provide an anchor, and an expander device to expand a length of the first conduit, as recited in claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 15 and allowance of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 8-14, and 16-22 are allowed.

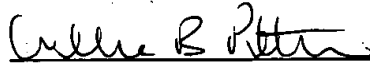
Applicant appreciates allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant